

SOME ARANEIDÆ FROM THE ROPER RIVER, NORTHERN TERRITORY.

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(Figs. 1, 2, 3.)

To the Director, Dr. R. Hamlyn-Harris, I am indebted for the opportunity of examining a small collection of ARANEIDÆ from the Roper River, N.T. These specimens were collected by Mr. M. J. Colclough for the Queensland Museum. The collection contains about two dozen species, two of which are described as new. Of these I have pleasure in dedicating one (*Dixa colcloughi*) in honour of the collector. As already remarked, the collection is a small one. This is hardly to be wondered at, seeing that the ARANEIDÆ is a somewhat neglected branch of our fauna. The jungle of tropical Queensland, and that vast area comprising the Northern Territory, must, nevertheless, contain many interesting forms at present unknown to science. In a young country such as this the COLEOPTERA and LEPIDOPTERA are naturally among the first of the terrestrial invertebrates to attract attention; but as time advances, and as the two great orders become better known and worked, the ARANEIDÆ will undoubtedly receive that study its importance merits.

FAM. DRASSIDÆ.

SUBFAM. HEMICLÆNIÆ.

GENUS HEMICLÆA, Thor.

HEMICLÆA SUNDEVALLI, Thor.

Both sexes of this species are represented, that of the female being immature. Previously recorded from North Queensland to Sydney, N.S.W.

HEMICLÆA PLUMEA, L. Koch.

A female of this species is represented in this collection. Koch recorded this species from Rockhampton; in the Australian Museum (Sydney) there is a specimen from Bathurst, N.S.W.

HEMICLÆA LIMBATA, L. Koch.

This is an interesting find, since it extends our knowledge of the range of the species. Koch recorded it originally from Sydney. Both sexes were collected.

SUBFAM. DRASSODINÆ.

GENUS DRASSODES, Westr.

DRASSODES (DRASSUS) INVENUSTUS, L. Koch?

The specimen is damaged, but I record it, tentatively, as *invenustus*. Should it prove to be so, the known range of the species will be very much extended, since, up to the present, it has only been known to me as a New South Wales form.

FAM. ZODARIIDÆ.

SUBFAM. ZODARIINÆ.

GENUS STORENA, Walck.

STORENA FORMOSA, Thor.

There can be little doubt that the specimen under reference is the species here quoted. Unfortunately, it is immature. It was captured when about to cast its skin, so that the colour scheme is barely perceptible through the loose integument. Koch recorded *S. formosa*, vaguely, from "Neuholland"; nevertheless, it is widely distributed, examples having been obtained from various localities in Queensland, N. S. Wales, Victoria, and Central Australia.

FAM. PHOLCIDÆ.

SUBFAM. PHOLCINÆ.

GENUS PSILOCHORUS, Simon.

PSILOCHORUS SPHÆROIDES, L. Koch.

Rockhampton, North Queensland, was the original locality from which this species was recorded.

FAM. THERIDIIDÆ.

GENUS LATRODECTUS, Walck.

LATRODECTUS HASSELTII, Thor.

Commonly found throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands, India, Malaysia, Papua, and Eastern Australia. This is the well-known "Katipo" of New Zealand.

FAM. ARGIOPIDÆ.

SUBFAM. ARGIOPINÆ.

GENUS ARGIOPE, Aud. in Sav.

ARGIOPE ÆMULA, Walck.

Distributed throughout Malaysia, Papua, Queensland Felix, and N. S. Wales Felix.

GENUS ARANEUS, Clerck.

ARANEUS BRISBANÆ, L. Koch.

An immature example. The species occurs in Queensland, N. S. Wales, and New Zealand.

FAM. THOMISIDÆ.

SUBFAM. MISUMENINÆ.

GENUS DLÆA, Thor.

DLÆA COLCLOUGHI, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 2.)

♀ Cephalothorax, 5.5 mm. long, 4 mm. broad; abdomen, 6.1 mm. long, 8 mm. broad.

Cephalothorax.—Longer than broad, strongly arched, truncated in front, yellow-brown with pale-yellowish markings in the ocular area and on the clypeus. *Ocular area* very much wider than long, angular, lateral angles acute. *Pars cephalica* broad, arched, compressed laterally, sides declivous, surface finely and sparingly granulated. *Pars thoracica* broad, strongly arched, sides and posterior angles declivous, surface finely granulated, radial grooves faintly indicated. *Clypeus* broad, deep. *Marginal band* narrow.

Eyes.—Eight, small, black, arranged in two rows of four each; the posterior row is considerably the widest, and forms a slightly procurved line, while the anterior row is strongly recurved. The eyes of the posterior row are very widely separated from each other; in respect of these the dividing space is much the greatest between the median pair; posterior lateral eyes seated at rear of angular projections; of the anterior row the median eyes are decidedly the smallest, and, although widely separated, are much the closest together of the entire series; front lateral eyes decidedly the largest. (Fig. 1.)

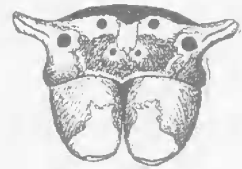


FIG. 1.

Legs.—Shining, yellow-brown; outer angle of femur of first pair pale-yellow; the lower angle of femora of first and second pairs have each a broken transverse band of pale-yellow; the other segments of the first and second pairs are relieved by irregular patches and broken transverse bands of pale-yellow; the third and fourth pairs have no pale-yellow markings; each ambulatory limb is finely pubescent; tibiæ and metatarsi of first and second pairs armed on the underside with a double row of dark, strong spines; tarsal claws black. Relative lengths: 1 = 2, 4, 3.

Palpi.—Short, yellow-brown with pale-yellow markings, hairy, furnished with a few rather long, fine spines or stout bristles.

Falces.—Yellow-brown with large, irregular, pale-yellow patches, short, arched.

Maxillæ.—Yellow-brown, long, narrow, arched, apices inclining inwards.

Labium.—Concolorous, long, coniform.

Sternum.—Concolorous also, shield-shaped, truncated in front, very slightly arched, smooth, sparingly hairy.

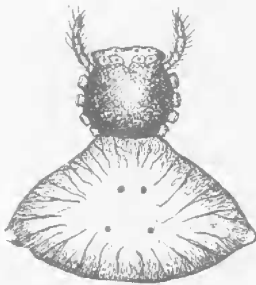


FIG. 2.

Abdomen.—Somewhat pentagonal, slightly overhanging base of cephalothorax, strongly arched, broadest beyond the middle where there is on the outer angle at each side a small coniform projection; this latter directed outwards; pale-yellow, dorsal surface with four small yellow-brown spots, of which the anterior pair are the smallest and closest together; laterally the surface is ornamented by numerous fine, irregular, lateral, thread-like lines, suggestive of delicate tracery; these latter are continued to the ventral surface, and some terminate near the spinnerets. (Fig. 2.)

Epigynum.—A simple, slightly arched, transverse plaque, with a deep, broad, median pit, having a curved, overhanging lip.

FAM. CLUBIONIDÆ.

SUBFAM. SPARASSINÆ.

GENUS DELENA, Walck.

DELENA CANCERIDES, Walck.

The collection includes an immature ♂ of this species, the range of which embraces the mainland of Australia and the island of Tasmania.

GENUS OLIOS, Walck.

OLIOS SALACIUS, L. Koch.

Represented by both mature and immature forms. Previously recorded range, Queensland to N. S. Wales.

OLIOS DIANA, L. Koch ?

An immature ♀ of what I take to be this species, the previously known geographical range of which was Victoria, South and Western Australia.

OLIOS HÆMORRHOIDALIS, L. Koch ?

Another immature example, the previously known habitat of which was N. S. Wales.

GENUS HETEROPODA, Latr.

HETEROPODA VENATORIA, Linn.

Commonly known as the "House Spider" of the tropics. This species is very common on the mainland of Australia. Originally it came from India, from whence it spread by "ballooning" to all those regions influenced by the N.E. and S.E. trade winds.

SUBFAM. CLUBIONINÆ.

GENUS CLUBIONA, Latr.

CLUBIONA VACUNA, L. Koch.

A Northern form, originally recorded from Port Mackay.

CLUBIONA NOTABILIS, L. Koch.

Another Northern form, also first recorded from Port Mackay.

FAM. LYCOSIDÆ.

GENUS LYCOSA, Latr.

LYCOSA GODEFFROYI, L. Koch.

A ♂ example differing merely in colour pattern from the typical form.

LYCOSA LÆTA, L. Koch.

An immature ♀ of this species, the range of which as previously defined was North Queensland and Central Australia.

LYCOSA OBSCURA, L. Koch.

A ♂ of this species was obtained. Its range as previously recorded was Queensland, N. S. Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

FAM. SALTICIDÆ.

GENUS ARASIA, Simon.

ARASIA MOLLICOMA, L. Koch.

An immature example of this species is included in this collection. It has been previously recorded from Queensland and N. S. Wales.

GENUS SAITIS, Simon.

SAITIS PISCULA, Keys ?

This is another immature example, and a ♂. The specimen certainly bears a close superficial resemblance to Keyserling's species, but as the genital bulb is not uncovered it is not possible to speak with certainty.

GENUS OCRISIONA, Simon.

OCRISIONA COMPLANATA, L. Koch.

A widely distributed species. It is found in Queensland, Masthead Island (Great Barrier Reef), N. S. Wales, and Noumea.

GENUS CLYNOTIS, Simon.

CLYNOTIS VIDUUS, L. Koch.

Previously recorded from Queensland and N. S. Wales.

GENUS MOLLICA, G. W. and E. G. Peckh.

MOLLICA JUCUNDA, sp. nov.

(Fig. 3.)

♀ Cephalothorax, 3·4 mm. long, 2·8 mm. broad; abdomen, 5 mm. long, 3 mm. broad.

Cephalothorax.—Glossy black with purple reflections when viewed in certain lights and at certain angles, clothed with long hairs. *Pars cephalica* high, compressed laterally, sloping forward, sides declivous, hairs generally black, but there is at the rear of each posterior eye a broad crescent-shaped band of hoary hairs. *Pars thoracica* arched, normal grooves and indentations indistinct, sides declivous, sloping abruptly to posterior angle. *Clypeus* deep, sloping inwards. *Marginal band* narrow, pale-yellow, almost white. (Fig. 3.)

Eyes.—Eight, grouped in three series of 2, 2, 4. Anterior row of four strongly recurved, grouped closely together; of this series the median pair are decidedly the largest of the eight; the lateral eyes, again, are rather larger than the posterior pair; the median eyes are, as usual, small, and each is placed about midway between its anterior lateral and posterior neighbours.

Legs.—Anterior pair rather long and extremely robust; the second pair are robust also, but less markedly than the first; third and fourth pairs slender and tapering. The first pair has the coxa and femur yellow; patella yellow at junction of femur, thence black; tibia black; metatarsus yellow for about one-third its length, thence black; tarsus yellow, but black at extremity. Of the second pair the coxa, femur, and patella are yellow; the tibia yellow for about one-half its length, thence blackish. The third and fourth pairs are yellowish throughout. All the ambulatory limbs are thickly clothed with long hairs, those on the black portions being black, and the rest yellowish. Relative lengths: 1, 4, 2, 3.

Palpi.—Short, strong, black, hairy.

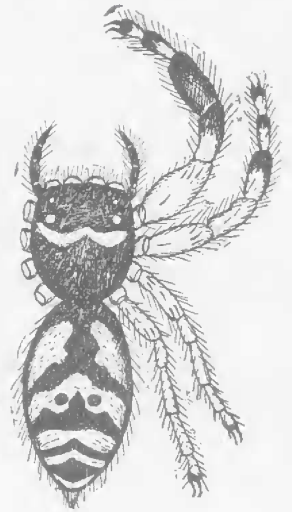


FIG. 3.

Falces.—Strong, arched, apices divergent, black, thickly clothed with long, coarse hairs; except at the base and inner angles, where the hairs are hoary; this hirsute clothing is black.

Maxillæ.—Short, broad, arched, black, hairy.

Labium.—Coniform, arched, hairy, concolorous.

Sternum.—Concolorous also, shield-shaped, hairy.

Abdomen.—Ovate, arched, slightly projecting over base of cephalothorax, black; the dorsal surface thickly clothed with coarse, rather long, black and hoary hairs; these latter have the effect of producing a somewhat conventional and striking design marked by patches and transverse bands; the sides and ventral surface black and hairy.

Epigynum.—A slightly arched, rather broad transverse plaque with two deep lateral pits; the surface is so densely clothed with long hairs that this organ is almost obscured, and it is very difficult indeed to define its outline and structure.

NOTE.—There were several examples of this handsome species, and these show that *Mollica jucunda* is exceedingly variable, both in size and abdominal colour design. In some examples there is scarcely a trace of any design dorsally, the surface appearing an almost uniform grey.